



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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H.R. 1 Provides More Resources *and* Demands Accountability

The federal government can, and must, help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers through stronger accountability, help for failing schools, and more choices for parents. But money alone is not sufficient.

Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 -- and more than \$80 billion in the past decade alone -- in an unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers. The most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results, for example, revealed that average reading scores for fourth-graders have shown no improvement over the last eight years.

The *No Child Left Behind* bill represents an important break from the past: It would, for the first time, demand real results from public schools that receive federal education resources. While holding schools strictly accountable for increasing student achievement, H.R. 1 does provide additional resources to states and local school districts.

President Bush is requesting \$44.5 billion in FY 2002 for the Education Department, an increase of \$2.5 billion (5.9 percent) over the FY 2001 level. The department received the largest percentage increase in the President's 2002 budget of any Cabinet-level domestic agency. Indeed, President Bush is calling for an increase in education spending that is more than twice as large as what former President Clinton asked for in his FY 2000 budget request.

Message of the Day

For far too long we have been spending federal dollars on education without being able to track our students' progress and make certain that they are learning.

- *It is time to stop funding failure and start building a culture of achievement in our education system.*
- *Combined with a rigorous accountability system and increased flexibility, more funding for education will provide much-needed assistance for disadvantaged students who have for too long been left behind.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- A recent study by the American Legislative Exchange Council showed that while per pupil spending increased nationwide by 22.8 percent over the past 20 years, standardized test scores haven't improved.
- President Bush proposes spending \$9.1 billion for FY 2002 Title I grants to local educational agencies, an increase of \$459 million, to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.
- The President requested \$900 million for a new Reading First program, based on proven principles of scientific research, to ensure that every child can read by the third grade.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I support historic new levels of education funding, yet all of us know better schools require more than just funding. And I hope the Senate hears that we need meaningful education reform through high standards, accountability." **President George W. Bush, April 23, 2001**